

Application No. 09/538,455
Amendment Dated July 12, 2005
Reply to non-final Office Action of February 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

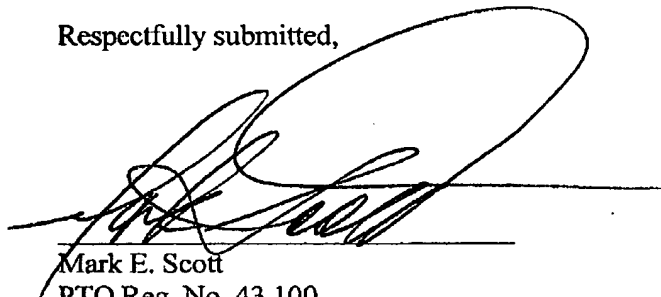
Receipt of the non-final Office Action dated February 15, 2005 is hereby acknowledged. That Action acknowledges the September 30, 2003, decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BAPI). In the Action, the Examiner: 1) allowed claims 1-8, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26-30; 2) cancelled claims 9 - 17 citing the BAPI affirmation of the Examiner's earlier rejections of claims 9 - 17; and 3) rejected claim 25 as being anticipated by *Higdon* (U.S. Patent No. 6,102,068).

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the allowance of claims 1-8, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26-30. With this Response, Applicants cancel claims 9 - 17 and 25. Claims 18, 19, and 22 were cancelled previously. Thus, this entire case should be in a condition for allowance. The cancellation of claims 9-17 and 25 is without prejudice to later asserting those claims, such as in a continuation application.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,



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